

# FIRST-PRIZE WINNER

## Going to Thunder Bay

Alexis and Keon wanted to visit their dad. They went to Thunder Bay with their Baba, Joey. It was a sunny, cloudy day.

When they got to Thunder Bay, Daddy was waiting outside for them. He was so happy to see his children.

***Alexis Onabigon-Brown***

Migizi Wazisin Elementary School (Kindergarten)  
Longlac, Ontario



# FIRST-PRIZE WINNER

## Mark and Matthew Find a Bug

Once upon a time, there were two six-year-old boys who were in grade one. Their names were Mark and Matthew. They were learning about insects.

At recess, they saw a strange bug. With eight legs, they wondered, *Was it an insect?*

After recess, they told their teacher they saw something, but they didn't know what it was.

So, after school, the boys went to the library. Matthew found a book about it. The bug they found appeared to be called a scorpion. It was part of a group of bugs with eight legs.

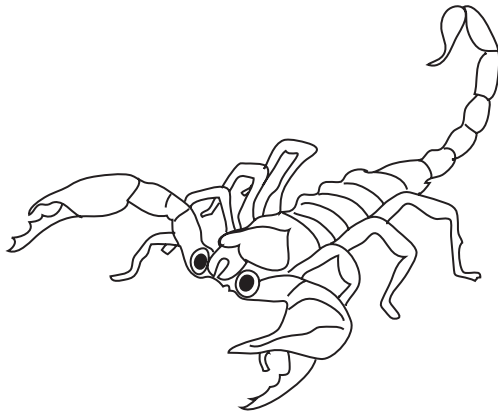
At recess the next day, they saw it again. They told a teacher they saw a scorpion. Just then, the teacher jumped. She saw the same scorpion! A few more teachers ran over. They screamed, "Eee . . . !"

The next day, the class went on a field trip to the forest. They got to catch bugs. Matthew caught three ants and a wasp. Mark caught two scorpions and a bee.

They had show-and-tell the next day. Matthew brought in his wasp. Mark brought in one of his scorpions. It was so cool!

### *Luke So*

Kingsway College School (Grade One)  
Etobicoke, Ontario



# FIRST-PRIZE WINNER

## The House in the Woods

There once was a girl named Lena. She lived with her mother and father in a log house in the forest. Lena liked to ride Chestnut, the horse her father found in the woods.

One day, when Lena's father was chopping wood, she decided to go for a horse ride with Chestnut. Along the path, she came upon some odd-looking tracks. She told Chestnut to turn around, and they returned to her father at the woodpile. Lena told her father what she saw. They both hopped on Chestnut.

When they got home, they told Lena's mother. Lena and her mother quickly went to the barn and fed the animals. When they got back inside, they locked the doors. A few minutes later, Lena thought she heard something. They went down in the cold cellar and stayed there all night.

In the morning, Lena's mother said, "We need more food. I will have to go get some from the garden." Lena and her father were worried. Finally, her mother came in with baskets full of veggies. When they were eating, Lena spotted a panther! They quickly went back to the cold cellar. When they went to look out the window, they realized that what Lena saw was really only a black dog! They kept the dog for a pet and called her Maple. She was nice.

The next day, there was a very bad storm. Lena's mother was about to have a baby, but nobody could get the doctor. They sent Maple. Later, Maple and the doctor arrived. The doctor took a look at Lena's mother and said to Lena's father, "She will have the baby soon."

Lena's father asked, "Will you be staying here until my wife has her baby?"

"Yes," said the doctor.

The next morning, Lena found Maple curled up in a quilt. Right beside her were three little puppies! She told her mother and father. Then Lena fed the puppies right away. After feeding them, she gave them all names: Ginger, Molasses, and Sugar.

The days grew colder and shorter. Lena loved the puppies dearly. Lena wished her mother could have her baby soon. Maple's puppies grew big. Lena spent her days inside, making gifts for Christmas and playing with Maple's puppies.

One day, Lena decided to make a Christmas present for the baby. She made a nice quilt. Her mother said she could give it when the baby came. Lena was happy because after her sleep it would be Christmas morning.

The next day, Lena had a surprise. There was her mother in her hickory rocking chair, and in her arms was a baby girl! Lena's mother named her Irene.

Lena ate some food, and then played with Irene. Lena was so busy playing with the baby and the puppies, she forgot about her stocking, until her mother reminded her. Lena went over to her stocking, and pulled out a new dress, a penny, some liquorice, new shoes, a new plate, a quilt, and one more dress! Lena was happy to have her baby sister and a wonderful Christmas with her family.

*Jade Ritter*

Alma Public School (Grade Two)

Alma, Ontario

# FIRST-PRIZE WINNER

## Super Gecko

Once upon a time there was a gecko named Barry. He lived on a houseboat in Paris with his owner, Avery. When Barry was young, he had a secret life in a mad scientist's lab.

One day, the scientist did an experiment. The scientist did it wrong and it blew up. Barry inhaled the smoke. Then, suddenly, he felt a tingle. He didn't know it, but he had been blessed with super powers! But, he knew something was wrong because his yellow tummy was no longer only yellow, it was now yellow and sparkly.

Earlier, Barry was looking for food on the houseboat. No one was home. Barry climbed up on the cupboard. No food! He looked in the fruit dish. Still no food! Then he jumped off the table but, he didn't hit the ground . . . he was hovering! Scared, Barry floated over to the cupboard and landed. Then he climbed down.

Just then, Avery came home. "Hungry?" she asked Barry.

"Yes," said Barry, speaking in human language.

"Ahh!" said Avery. "You can talk!"

"I know," said Barry.

"Well," said Avery, "if you have powers now, why not fight crime?"

"Sure," answered Barry.

"Help!" a woman cried from outside.

"Here's your chance!" Avery exclaimed.

"Here I go!" said Barry.

*Zoom.*

*Kick. Punch. Slap!*

The crime was right outside the houseboat.

"There," said a very breathless Barry. "Done!"

A week went by. Barry fought a total of fifty-two crimes. Precisely the Monday after that week, the exact same scientist Barry once knew came to the houseboat.

"Give me that Gecko!" he screamed at Avery.

"Um . . . do I know you?" Avery asked.

"No," he said, "but your gecko does. Hand him over!"

"No!" screamed Avery, but the scientist went inside anyway.

He grabbed Barry and ran away.

Avery chased him, of course, and followed him into an underground lab. The scientist fell and broke his leg. Barry flew into Avery's arms. Avery ran home with Barry. "No more crimes," Avery said. "Those super powers are our little secret."

And from that day on, Barry was a normal gecko (or he tried to be).

## *Carlee Rowsell*

École Harrington School (Grade Three)  
Harrington Harbour, Québec



# FIRST-PRIZE WINNER

## Lost Horse

Jessica was turning eleven. She was hoping to get something cool or interesting from her grandma. Grandma Thora came around the corner with the most beautiful horse Jessica had ever seen. "Wow! Where did you find her?" whispered Jessica.

Her grandma replied, "I found this beauty running around the pasture near the barn. So, whatcha gonna call her?"

"I think I'll name her . . . Diamond!" cheered Jessica.

The next morning, Jessica went outside to feed Diamond. She noticed the back yard was quiet. "Diamond!" Jessica hollered. "Diamond!" Jessica called again. Still no horse in sight. Jessica called one last time, "Diamond!" She looked around, but couldn't see her new horse. Jessica started to get worried. Immediately, she started crying. "Where's Diamond? Where's Diamond?" She ran to the door in tears. Jessica knocked like a wild horse's hooves thundering against the ground!

Her mom opened the door and asked, "What's wrong?"

Jessica answered in a frightful voice, "Diamond is gone!"

Her mom almost fainted. "Oh my gosh!" she screamed. "What are we going to do about this? I must call your grandma."

"But, Mom, Diamond was a wild horse. She must have run away!"

*Bang! Bang!* Someone was at the door. Jessica's mom tried to calm down before she answered it! "Who is it?" Mom called. She opened the door. "Ah, Thora, I was just about to . . . to call you on the phone."

"Why ya wantin' to do that, deary?"

*Grandma was always cheery for some reason. I think she was born like that,* Jessica thought. *Oh well, she's always there when you need her!*

After Jessica's mom explained everything, Grandma said, "Well, we better go find that horse of yours before sundown! Y'all better hurry!"

They headed for the forest where Diamond was most likely to be found. When they got there, the trees were whistling like a person blowing into a soda can. As they got deeper into the forest, Jessica started to find hoof prints on the ground! "Mom, Grandma, look! I found Diamond's hoof prints. See? And other ones too!"

"Ha! Ha! Looks like Diamond's found a whole herd of friends!" Grandma laughed in a joyful voice. "Well, let's keep on looking, Jessie honey. I'll bet we'll find her soon if we follow these prints."

"Look," Mom whispered.

"Diamond," Jessica whispered back.

"Ha! So she did find a whole bunch of friends! . . . Well, what do ya wanna do, darlin'?" Grandma asked.

"Well . . . she does look happy, so I think I'll leave her here."

"Good idea," Mom agreed.

As Jessica, Mom, and Grandma were walking home, Jessica found something glowing, white, and soft on the ground; it looked almost like part of Diamond's fur. *I'm going to keep this forever!* she thought.

Once they got home, it was Jessica's bed time. Jessica lay in bed with the fur beside her. She may not have Diamond with her that very moment, but she still had her in her dreams. "Good night, Diamond," she whispered.

**Madisyn Menssa**

Good Shepherd School (Grade Four)

Peace River, Alberta

# FIRST-PRIZE WINNER

## Abby's Tumble

I woke up to the fresh mountain air. We had just set up camp in the Rockies late last night. Mom was outside getting breakfast ready. Rebecca, my younger sister called Becca by our family and friends, was still sleeping. I peeked outside the tent window again.

Sam was annoying Sheila, as usual, trying to get her to play with him. They were our two Australian shepherds, both from the same litter. Although they looked the same, their personalities were very different. Sam was hyper, disobedient, and very excitable. On the contrary, Sheila was calm, obedient, and quiet.

I climbed over Becca and pulled on some clothes. When I got outside, I realized it was very foggy. I fed the dogs, and then let my mind wander.

"Abby, please set the table," my mom said. I got up and started putting forks down. While I was putting the spoons down, Sam raced off and Sheila followed.

"Stop!" I yelled. But, they were having too much fun to stop.

I dropped the spoons and grabbed their leashes. Off I went, after them. They raced around the campsite, and then took a left onto one of the campsite's trails. I ran after them. The fog grew thicker, and I could no longer see the dogs. I just followed the thumping sounds of their feet along the gravel path.

Suddenly, I tripped and tumbled down the mountainside. Everything went black.

The next thing I remember is feeling something cold and wet. I opened my eyes to find Sam lying beside me, licking my face. Sheila was nearby, pacing and looking worried. She stopped when she noticed me awakening.

"Come, Sheila," I croaked weakly. Luckily, she came. My sleeve was ripped, so I pulled it off and tied it in a clumsy knot around her collar. "Go home," I commanded. She didn't budge. "Go home!" I repeated more firmly. She started to walk away. After a few metres, she stopped, hesitating. For a third time, I yelled, "Go home!" Then she finally turned around and ran. I let out a sigh.

I didn't think sending Sheila off would work, but I couldn't think of anything else. It seemed like something somebody in a book would do, but it was worth a try. I must have drifted off to sleep because I woke to the sound of walkie-talkies.

"The footprints stop here," said a figure on the top of the mountainside into their walkie-talkie.

"I'm over here," I croaked. But I didn't need to. The figure was a man, and he was now descending towards me.

"Don't worry," he said, comfortingly, "we will get you out of here."

I gave him a weak smile before falling into a deep, deep sleep.

I woke in a hospital bed with my leg and head bandaged. Sam and Sheila bounded up to me. I stroked their heads and knew everything would be alright. From then on, my family always referred to my accident as Abby's Tumble.

*Alexandra Pierce*

Vincent Massey Public School (Grade Five)

Ottawa, Ontario

# FIRST-PRIZE WINNER

## Every New Day

It was pouring buckets of rain. I felt like punching the weatherman and making sure he never got back up. “So much for clear skies, eh, Kaci?”

Today wasn’t supposed to be like this. We were supposed to be skating through the park. Free. And where were we now? Stuck—stuck in an overcrowded bus stop, thoroughly drenched. My teeth were chattering. I rubbed at my bare arms. I shouldn’t have worn a T-shirt.

Finally, after what seemed to be an eternity, the bus came. I cheered. Everyone scrambled to get into the warmth and comfort of that bus. Kaci had her tickets in hand and was part of the stampede. I was just standing there, rummaging madly for my own tickets. I finally found out why there wasn’t anything: there was a hole in my pocket! Trying to fight back tears, I was horrified at what I saw on the ground. Ripped, soggy, and dirty . . . two bright orange bus tickets. They came apart in my hand as I tried to pick them up. Soon, all I had was a pile of muddy orange paper.

I hate you, weatherman.

I threw the pieces angrily into the air. They couldn’t be saved. “Kaci, can I . . . ?”

She just showed me her empty wallet and got on the bus. It sped off and the last thing I saw was Kaci, at the window, giving me an apologetic smile. I couldn’t hold it in any longer. I was crying so hard that I wouldn’t be surprised if some of those puddles on the ground were from my tears. “I hate you!” I screeched. A few people stared, but I didn’t care. I just cried.

As soon as I stopped crying, I realized I had my wallet. *How could I be so dumb?* And now I had to wait at the bus stop alone. It was stuffy before, but at least it was warmer. Now, it was empty and the cool air swirled in the shelter.

When I finally got home, I was a wreck. My mom told me that Kaci called and told everyone that I had dozed off on the bus and missed the stop. I was furious. She lied to save her hide, but I was too tired to tell the truth. I just went straight to bed.

After weeks and weeks, I still hadn’t forgiven Kaci, my only friend, for leaving me like that. Worse still, everyone believed her story. My life turned upside down. I was like the living dead.

Ten, early one morning, I realized that she wasn’t worth falling apart for. She was never a real friend. I spent so many days just wasting my time—because of this one person. I could have been out making new friends! Doing something fun with my life! Every new day had new opportunities; I should’ve taken some of them in those weeks. Luckily, I still have plenty of time left.

***Stephanie Fung***

Broadview Public School (Grade Six)  
Ottawa, Ontario



# SECOND-PRIZE WINNER

## The Scary Castle

The castle is scary.

There is a door in the castle. There are bats in the castle. It even has a drawbridge.

The moon is turning green. The castle has three towers.

*Jordan Vasilev*

Sidney Ledson Institute (Kindergarten)

Toronto, Ontario



# SECOND-PRIZE WINNER

## The Best Scientist

Once upon a time there was a boy and he liked to study a lot of science. Science was his passion. He grew up to be the best scientist.

Then, one day, somebody called him. He went to his car. He drove his car to have a meeting with the police.

The police had a long talk about a mysterious white blob. The police told him about the emergency so he went into his car and he drove away to where he could end it. When he came to the place, he saw a man. The man looked very confused. The scientist saw something in his hand. It was a blob, the colour white and it was very slimy. The scientist walked over the man and he asked, "What is that?"

The man said, "I don't know what it is."

The scientist said, "I will study it at my place."

"Okay," the man said.

The scientist went into his car and drove away. When he got to his house, he tested the white blob and found that it was slime. He drove his car to the man's house and he told what it was: slime. Then he returned to the police station, and told the police that he had solved the mystery of the white blob.

### *Jacob Chung*

Sidney Ledson Institute (Grade One)  
Toronto, Ontario



# SECOND-PRIZE WINNER

## The Three Little Ponies

Once upon a time, there was a pony that lived in a stable. Its name was Candy Cane. It was a cute, fluffy, white pony. It had one friend, a little brown pony named Brownie. Their owners took them out on a trail ride every day.

But one day, they did not go out on a trail ride. Candy Cane did not see Brownie anywhere. Then her owner came and said that Brownie was sick and she saw that the gate was open. She cantered forward to Brownie's stall in the stable. She nudged Brownie and said, "Are you okay?"

"I am fine," said Brownie.

"Let's go cantering," said Candy Cane. So the two friends went cantering.

When they got back, they saw a new pony. They said, "Hello."

The new pony said, "Hello. My name is Lily."

Lily is a chestnut-coloured pony. Lily asked if they wanted to be friends.

"Yes," said Brownie and Candy Cane.

So the three friends went in their stall and ate their hay.

Lily's owner came, and Brownie's owner came, and Candy Cane's owner came. They all went out jumping the fences. The three ponies loved jumping the jumps, but it was tiring. They rested inside for the rest of the day.

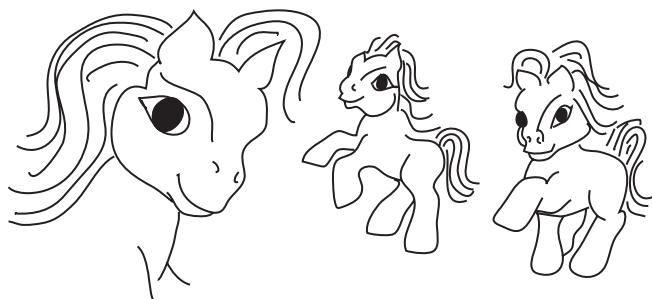
In the evening, they got to go out on a trail ride again.

After, the three friends ate their apples and hay, and drank their water. Then they fell asleep.

*Clover Stempski Kelly*

Montessori School of Elora (Grade Two)

Elora, Ontario



# SECOND-PRIZE WINNER

## The Adventure of the Two Friends

Long, long ago, there lived two little fish, Amber and Pearl. They lived happily with their parents in the peaceful waters of a beautiful lake. One day, Pearl and Amber's parents invited all the other residents of the lake to a meeting. The two curious fish listened to what the adults discussed, "The Earth is getting warmer by the day. Our water has been evaporating quickly, and it hasn't rained for years! Our lake is drying up and many of our friends have died! What should we do?"

The little fish were sad. Pearl exclaimed, "We have to find a new home with plenty of water. We should explore new bodies of water beyond our own lake!"

The next morning, Amber and Pearl set out on their quest to explore new waters. The two fish swam farther and farther away. They had never swam so far from their little lake. The girls thought they had reached the freezing waters of the Atlantic Ocean. They did not know that they were actually swimming inside a huge fishing net. When Amber and Pearl realized they were trapped, they tried desperately to escape. Upset and discouraged, the two finally gave up. The fishing net was attached to a trawler boat, which belonged to a kind fisherman. When the fisherman was sorting his catch of the day, he discovered the two tiny fish. He knew that his daughter would just love to keep them as her pets. He placed the fish in a tiny bowl.

Back in the drying lake, Amber and Pearl's parents were swimming high and low in search for them. Soon, they also reached the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean. But they did not know that they had also now swam into the enormous fishing net of the kind fisherman. When the gentle man saw the four bigger fish, he thought they could keep the other two pet fish company. Pearl and Amber were surprised to see their parents being put into their bowl. They were happy to be reunited, but they were also sad that they were all captured. No one knew what was going to happen. While they were puzzling about their fate, the jolly fisherman chanted cheerily as he walked home with the fish in a bowl for his daughter. He sang a little song, "Six small fish! Six small fish! Love them! Love them! She's gonna love them!"

Before the fish realized where they were heading, they were transferred into a huge tank. They heard the gentle father say to his little daughter, "I hope you like them."

The young girl squealed, "I love them! They're so beautiful! I'm going to feed them some baby shrimps."

So, the two families found a new home away from their drying lake. They lived in the plentiful water of an enormous tank. Here, under the care of the little girl and her kind father, Pearl, Amber, and their families found a safe shelter. The fish lived happily forever after.

**Sarina Wong**

Trinity Montessori School (Grade Three)  
Markham, Ontario



# SECOND-PRIZE WINNER

## The Perfect Crime . . . Ruined

The lights on Sherbet Drive are dimming. The looming houses look creepier than ever. You hear rustling in a bush. You take a cautious step forward. A shadowy figure slips into the local bank. *Strange*, you think. The bank staff never leave the door unlocked at closing time. Something tugs at the back of your brain. “Go home!” a voice in your head shouts. But something seems to drag you forward.

Before long, you’re inside the bank. You get the same tug in the back of your brain, but the same invisible force drags you ahead with burning curiosity.

“I’m going to be rich,” mumbles the darkened figure ahead.

“In your dreams,” you can’t stop yourself from saying.

The robber turns, but you manage to hide behind a *World-Currency Exchange* stand. He eyes the stand suspiciously. You start to sweat, but he continues to walk. “Must’ve been my imagination,” he mutters.

“Phew!” you sigh, stepping out from behind the stand.

“Who was that?” The intimidating figure whirled around. You try to hide, but he’s too quick this time.

He charges at you.

You stick your leg out to trip him.

The alarm whirls. Guards peek out of their rooms. You dash out the door before anybody sees you.

You look through the window to see the robber being handcuffed, and the street is lit with police cars’ headlights. Upon seeing this sight, you walk back home, whistling a merry tune.

The next day, the top headline on the newspaper reads, “Robber Gives Himself Away in Attempted Robbery!”

You smile. You are a hero—at least, a hero in your own little way.

***Elwyn Zhang***

Trillium School (Grade Four)

Markham, Ontario



# SECOND-PRIZE WINNER

## Grandfather's Box

"Ready. Set. Go!" yelled the mayor.

"Mush," Kazik, a young Inuit boy, called to Teaka. Teaka was a beautiful Siberian husky with blue eyes and a thick grey and white coat. Kazik had received her on his sixth birthday from his parents and had taught her all the dog-sledding commands. They had been preparing for two years for this race.

All the huskies howled as they started off. Teaka led Kazik around trees, up and down hills, and even on slippery patches of ice. On one patch of ice, however, there was something sticking up. Both Kazik and Teaka thought it was just snow. When the sled stopped and Teaka began to whimper, Kazik realized it had actually been sharp ice!

Kazik leapt off the sled and trudged over to Teaka who was whimpering wildly. Her leg was cut and she was bleeding. The wound was deep and Kazik knew that he needed a vet to look at Teaka. There was no way Teaka could continue to race. Kazik began to panic. He ran back to his sled.

"Oh no!" he said, realizing he forgot his first-aid kit.

*Ooowww!* Teaka wailed. She needed help and fast.

"What will I do?" Kazik said to himself.

*Aha!* Kazik soon remembered his grandfather's box. Kazik reached into his bag and searched for the box he had received from his grandfather a few years before he had passed away. The message on the box read "Only open me when you are in trouble."

When Kazik felt the rough wood, he pulled the box out, quickly unlatched the lid and there, sitting on an old tattered rag, was a dog whistle.

Kazik picked up the whistle and blew. It made a loud shrill sound. Kazik looked down at Teaka, licking her wound. Suddenly, Kazik felt a warm breath on his neck. He quickly turned around. Sitting behind him was a . . . wolf! It was beautiful, with pure white fur and blue eyes staring at Kazik. As Kazik looked into the wolf's eyes, he realized it would not hurt him.

It walked over to the sled and sat down in front of it. "I think it wants to pull the sled," Kazik whispered to Teaka. Teaka nodded.

Kazik slowly crept over to the wolf and hooked it up to the sled. Kazik gently laid Teaka onto the sled. When Kazik was ready, he hopped onto the runners, took a deep breath, and then let the air out. They had a race to win, no matter what.

"Hike!" Kazik called. His team moved quickly and were now in the lead. They travelled quickly past trees and hills but, this time, they moved slowly and carefully over the ice. "Gee! Haw! Mush" Kazik ordered.

Now on the last turn, the other racers were nowhere in sight. The wolf pulled Kazik through the finish line and the crowd cheered wildly.

Kazik took the whistle out of the box again and said to himself, "This really is a special whistle." Kazik knelt down beside the wolf and hugged it tightly. With the help of the whistle and his grandfather, Kazik had a new friend. He decided to name the wolf Hero.

Kazik imagined his grandfather looking down at him and smiling, and Kazik smiled back.

*Daria Schaff*

Lampman School (Grade Five)  
Lampman, Saskatchewan

# SECOND-PRIZE WINNER

## Journey to the World Beyond

Beyond the reaches of Earth, there lay a place of uncharted territory. . . .

Rallen and Al lay on the fields of Daichi. The sky was peaceful. Suddenly, a portal opened. With an incredible gravitational pull, the brothers flew into the unknown dimension.

Inside, a light radiated towards Rallen. It sent a telepathic message to him: *Find the remaining three Saiga, or time and space will be distorted. Put the Saiga device on this altar to stop the distortion. A Saiga is a missing piece of dimension.* It then gave one Saiga to Rallen and enveloped both boys.

They found themselves back on Rallen's ship. "Let's set a course to locate Saiga energy!" yelled Rallen.

Al responded quickly. "The ship is automatically setting a course to Cassia!"

The ship descended into Cassia's atmosphere, but there was no solid ground to land on, only water.

"Put the ship on auto drive! Make it travel towards the Saiga!" yelled Rallen.

The ship rocketed through the water. A hatch opened. Two lone figures with water gear and rockets swam out. As the ship descended into a cave, a light shone in the water. Al shot towards it. "It might be a Saiga. Let's take it."

Returning to the ship, the brothers found its energy signature to be the same as the first Saiga. After the identification was complete, the cave began to crumble and a sea monster charged at them.

"*Aaah!*" screamed the brothers.

"Al, warp speed! We gotta get outta here!" screamed Rallen.

Unfortunately, the sea monster was faster. It lashed out. It knocked the ship out of Cassia, straight into a planet of pure energy. Descending through the atmosphere, Rallen succeeded in landing the ship.

For a moment, the ship was still, but the silence was disturbed by a comet of pulsating energy. It had to be a Saiga! As Rallen reached towards it, he felt a burning sensation. He quickly thought of a better plan for getting the Saiga. Holding the other two in his hands, energy spun like a hurricane, and the entire mass of energy fused. Finally, the three Saiga merged into a mysterious device.

"I guess we're done here," said Rallen. The brothers flew away from the planet. The device appeared to be calling something, trying to contact something. . . . It was something big, and it was coming fast towards them!

Seconds later, a giant portal opened and began to absorb the asteroids in the area, along with Rallen's ship. Suddenly, the brothers were back in the unknown dimension. Focusing on their task, Rallen and Al searched for the altar. One flew around the asteroids. Rallen jumped towards it. "I hope this works!" yelled Rallen.

As the Saiga device fused with the altar, time and space began to stabilize. Light shot out of the altar and the brothers teleported back to Daichi. . . .

Once again, they were deep in thought, lying on the fields of Daichi. One question remained unanswered: what caused the distortion? They were about to find out. . . .

**Austin Wong**

Trillium School (Grade Six)

Markham, Ontario

# THIRD-PRIZE WINNER

## **I Moved to a New House**

I moved to a new house last Friday. It is big. I have to walk up seventeen steps to my bedroom!

In the middle of my room, there is a rug that is orange and yellow with red spots. We went to the bank to buy money for all these.

*Akhil Chawathe*

Sidney Ledson Institute (Kindergarten)  
Toronto, Ontario



# THIRD-PRIZE WINNER

## The Baby Deer

In evening time, Denzel and Daylon went riding their red and yellow four-wheelers. They drove slowly all around the reserve—in ditches, up hills, and on trails. Daylon and Denzel saw grasshoppers and one small moose calf.

Then a little baby deer ran out in front of them! Denzel had to stop quickly. The baby deer was brown with white spots; it had big eyes and little baby ears. The mommy deer came and took the baby deer away.

Denzel and Daylon drove home. It was dark when they got home.

### *Denzel Towegishig-Patabon*

Migizi Wazisin Elementary School (Grade One)

Longlac, Ontario



# THIRD-PRIZE WINNER

## Wendy Witch and Her Evilness

Once upon a time, there was a witch named Wendy. She was an evil witch. She lived with a vampire and a pumpkin. The vampire and the pumpkin were evil too.

Wendy told them to get as many good pumpkins and good vampires as they could, so that she could turn them evil, just like she did to them.

So, the evil pumpkin and vampire set off. When the two of them came back, they had a lot of good pumpkins and vampires in a bag. The witch was very happy with them. She got her machine and turned it on to make evil!

When she looked back, all the pumpkins and vampires were gone. The witch got mad. She told her evil pumpkin and vampire to get the others again. So the evil vampire set off once more but, this time, the evil pumpkin stayed with the witch.

Then they heard a noise coming from the closet. The witch opened the door. It cracked and swayed and all the pumpkins and vampires came running out of the closet. They ran right on top of the witch and her evil pumpkin. That was the end of them both!

### *Raeghan O'Leary*

Vincent Massey Elementary School (Grade Two)

St. Andrews, New Brunswick



# THIRD-PRIZE WINNER

## The New English Apprentice

One bright early Monday morning, my mom woke me up and said, “Hi, my little sweetheart. Today’s your first day of school.”

I was red as a tomato. I got dressed. I combed and tied my hair up, had a nice little breakfast, and then brushed my teeth.

After, it was time to take the bus. I was very, very, very nervous! My heart was beating really fast and very hard. I took one step onto the bus, and then I immediately went back off. I felt so terrible and embarrassed. My mom and dad then decided to drive me to school.

When we got there, I started to cry and everybody was staring at me. Although I was very worried, I went inside my class, bringing my parents in with me.

After a while, the teacher came in the class. She said, “Good morning, girls and boys. My name is Ms. Reino.”

Everybody said, “Good morning, Ms. Reino,” but I didn’t. I started to cry again.

Suddenly, a girl in my class asked me if I wanted to be her friend. I said, “Okay.” I had no idea what I was saying okay to, since I didn’t know how to speak English.

My mom then asked me if I knew what I had agreed to. I nodded. Then she asked, “Are you sure?”

I said, “No.” And for the rest of the day, I couldn’t understand what anyone was saying.

Oh, boy, what a first day that was!

After my first day of school, my grandmother, who I call Mamie, came to pick me up. I had a big smile on my face. My grandmother asked me to speak English a little, and I agreed. My first sentence was, “Hi! My name is Rosaly.” That was easy!

When I came home, I relaxed and watched TV. When it was time for supper, my mom and dad asked me how my day had gone. Although they were there half of the day, they still asked me how the other half of the day had gone. I had to admit it had been a new experience that had left me hopeful that the next day would be easier to get through.

On the second day, after my morning routine, it was time to take the bus again. I was hesitant. This time, my dad hopped up on the bus with me and sat right beside me. I felt both embarrassed and, at the same time, reassured. Would you believe it? He stayed on for the whole ride.

Once at school, I saw my new friends again, and was happy to see them. I was also happy to see my teacher.

What I learned from this was that a new experience can sometimes be difficult at first, but then it gets easier. My first days of school gave me many emotions, such as nervousness, embarrassment and, I must admit, joy!

*Rosaly Goyette*

Greater Gatineau School (Grade Three)

Gatineau, Québec



# THIRD-PRIZE WINNER

## **Brownbeard and the Royal Pets**

James O’Neal, better known as Brownbeard, was a pirate who was feared by many people, including his crew. Brownbeard earned his nickname because of his extraordinarily long brown beard. He had thick, bushy eyebrows and a deep scar on his right cheek. The gruesome pirate had crooked, rotten teeth, and suffered from a severe case of scurvy.

Although Brownbeard was a ruthless, ill-tempered brute, he had a great love for animals. To his pets, he was a gentle, loving caregiver. Brownbeard had a peculiar passion for rare, exotic animals. This passion for rare varieties of animals from all over the world, however, was shared by the reigning monarch, Her Majesty Queen Lucia of Landon.

Queen Lucia was known to own some of the rarest breeds of dogs, reptiles, and birds. Among her pets, her most beloved were Maria, a rare breed of Yorkshire terrier, Lovey, the snow-white dove, and Edward, a rare pancake tortoise. Her Majesty was known to feed and care for these three animals personally every day. Brownbeard had always wanted these three rare pets for himself. For years, he had planned for the snatching of these animals.

One day, after dropping anchor a good distance off the shore of Landon, Brownbeard sailed in a small tender and landed on Seashell Beach. Then he speared towards the Royal Palace according to his plan.

There, he hid in the garden where the royal servant would bring the queen’s pets for their evening walk. The royal servant was shot in the leg from behind as he watched a man, with an incredibly long brown beard, nab the animals. The bearded man grabbed the leashes of the three pets and disappeared into bushes in the dark. The culprit was later identified by the royal servant as Brownbeard, the pirate who loved rare animals.

Since the disappearance of her beloved pets, Queen Lucia was stricken with grief. Her royal physicians believed that she would not rejoice again unless her pets were returned.

One day, Brownbeard’s galleon, *The Islander*, capsized near Landon when a severe storm hit the area. A few days later, a local fisherman found and rescued three animals trapped inside the wreckage of the abandoned pirate ship. *The Islander* was still hoisting its Jolly Roger, with a skull surrounded by a dog, a bird, and a turtle. It was empty, however, without a trace of her captain, crew, gold, or other treasure. When the fisherman saw the rare pup, the snow-white dove, and the exotic tortoise, he realized they must be the famous royal pets of his beloved queen. The kind fisherman delivered the precious animals to their grief-stricken owner.

The return of her beloved pets brought immediate joy to Queen Lucia and her entire kingdom. Brownbeard, his crewmates, and the chests of treasure were never seen again.

***Kimberly Ho***

Trinity Montessori School (Grade Four)  
Markham, Ontario



# THIRD-PRIZE WINNER

## Shark Fin

“Alone with the sea,” I said during my fishing hour. The thought of catching a ten-pounder kept me awake in the dead of morning. I heard the same voice screaming inside my head: *Shark in the water!* It sent blood-curdling shivers down a true sailor’s spine. Just the thought of a shark coming and stealing my fish was unbearable.

I thought to myself, *I’m so tired I’m afraid of my own dreams. Now I better get back to fishing.* Clearly, I had forgotten that shark attacks can really happen.

There he was, Captain Aiken, sitting there like a wet mangy cat shrivelled in a ball. I jumped aboard the ship and asked where his crew was. Then he gave a moan, a groan, and finally the answer. “Oh, you don’t want to know, but I’ll tell ya anyway. They’re dead, eaten—gone the whole lot of ’em. A fourteen-foot shark came and ate ’em. They’re dead and gone.”

Later, I was feeling lost as the fog crowded around my ship. I could only see a faint glimmer. I started the motor and went for it. There was one thing on my mind: *What is that?*

As I moved towards the glimmer, I realized it was the headlight of a ship: *The Great Elizabeth.* It was a crabbing ship. I had seen it before, but I wouldn’t have recognized it without the captain because of the beating it had taken.

*Poor old man,* I thought, *he is so scared he is repeating himself.*

*Boom!*

“I knew it! It’s coming for me. . . . It’s a-coming!” said the captain.

*Crack! Snap! Boom!*

Just like that half of the ship went under.

“*Aahhh,*” shrieked Captain like a little school girl. “Get the scuba gear, mate, so we can blow this thing to smithereens.” I didn’t hesitate to do it.

*Splash!* We hit the water as Captain Aiken shot his spear gun and missed the shark by a long shot. The beast sliced me with his fin. I dropped my gun and escaped while the man-eater greedily gobbled up the captain.

I swam for a cave’s safety and looked back to see the shark coming for me. As I hurried, I saw my spear gun float by me. I reacted quickly and shot the shark. The mere blow of the gun would have killed any other shark, but not this one.

Filled with adrenaline, I swam into the cave with the shark trailing right behind me. Suddenly, it struck, tore at me, and swam away. I realized I wasn’t hurt, but couldn’t breathe because the shark had swallowed my oxygen tank.

*Boom!*

The tank exploded the shark into numerous pieces.

The shark’s fin floated by me. I kept it as a reminder that an attack can happen.

## Drew Joslin

Evergreen Elementary School (Grade Five)  
Drayton Valley, Alberta



# THIRD-PRIZE WINNER

## **The Secret of Elmo Mountain**

The village of Wakely wasn't always deserted. A long time ago, Wakely had a massive population with residents from all over. One mysterious day, October 20th, 1916 to be precise, Mason Bradley was found petrified into solid stone. Many of the townsfolk thought it was just a Halloween prank, until they discovered the oversized footprints. These led up to Mount Elmo, which legend held to be the home of the Wakely monster!

Over the next week, Selma Pettigrew, Samson Laurentide, and many others were found petrified into stone, just like Mason Bradley. There soon was quite a collection of stone sculptures scattered throughout the town.

After all these incidents, the townspeople had an emergency meeting to decide what to do before the monster struck again. They decided to get out of Wakely for the sake of the children. There was one family, however, who weren't scared of a so-called "legendary monster." Once everybody else evacuated, it seemed to Pete and Marge Graham that they had been left in a blank world. Silence stirred all around them, except for the faint sound of the wind blowing. Wakely was normally buzzing with activity, but not one sound was heard. Wakely was a tourist town that was used to hard work and making money. With no tourists, the Grahams had a hard time surviving. After three drastic days, the Grahams decided to take matters into their own hands.

They quickly gathered supplies and on Monday morning, at 4:30 a.m., the Grahams set off to start their journey up the mountain to get rid of the monster. By the looks of its footprints, they were dealing with a giant!

Climbing higher and higher they could see the empty town below. Seeing it and how empty it was made them even angrier at what the monster had done to their people. It made them climb faster though.

As night fell, they set up camp on a ledge and waited till morning came. The next morning arrived quickly, and they began hiking again.

Two days later, they had made it to the top! In the distance, they could see the opening to a cave. As they approached, they lost their courage and wondered how they could be doing this. They stopped in their tracks. They had entered the cave! Taking out their weapons, they turned the corner. The monster! It was . . . stone! They breathed a sigh of relief, but they were confused.

A week later, the townspeople had got word that the Grahams had rid the town of the monster. Once again, Wakely was buzzing with people. The Grahams were happy, but secretly torn. They knew that somewhere out there, on Mount Elmo, a monster, even more powerful than they thought was roaming around. But did they dare tell the other townspeople the truth?

*Katie Yedynak*

Beacon Hill Elementary School (Grade Six)  
Beaconsfield, Québec

